

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02536 142000Z
ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5652
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 2536

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MASS, BM, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE BUSINESS WITH GUB PEARL AND FISHERIES
CORPORATION

REF: (A) SINGAPORE 2393 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 167863 (NOTAL)

1. MR. GERALD ATTAWAY, ATTORNEY FROM MESQUITE, TEXAS, VISITED BURMA FROM JULY 6 TO JULY 13 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SALES OF BOATS AND PARTICIPATION IN JOINT FISHING VENTURES WITH GUB PEARL ANF FISHERIES CORPORATION CHAIRMAN U K. BA THAUNG. MR. ATTAWAY SAID THAT THE BURMESE WERE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING APPROXIMATELY 30 BOATS, 6 OF WHICH WERE LARGE PATROL BOATS FOR PROTECTING FISHING WATERS, AND THE REMAINDER TRAWLING AND WORK BOATS. FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS, HE SAID THAT U BA THAUNG HAD TOLD HIM THAT GHE GUB WAS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN PURCHASING IMMEDIATELY TWO OR THREE "SWIFT" PATROL BOATS (105') MANUFACTURED BY SEWART SEACRAFT OF BURWICH, LOUISIANA. ATTAWAY WAS CONFIDENT THAT HE COULD OBTAIN FINANCING FOR THIS PURCHASE THROUGH EUROPEAN BANKS. HE INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK AMERICAN FINANCING FOR LATER PURCHASES OF PATROL AND WORK BOATS.

2. ATTAWAY SAID THAT U BA THAUNG WAS NONCOMMITTAL ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING JOINT VENTURES IN FISHING
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PAGE 02 RANGOO 02536 142000Z

DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN THE GUB AND PRIVATE US FIRMS. (PRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY IS AGAINST JOING VENTURES WITH PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTORS.)

3. ATTAWAY SAID THAT HE WAS ACTING FOR HIMSELF AS AN ARRANGER ON A COMMISSION BASIS, IN BUSINESS FOR HIMSELF AND UNNAMED ASSOCIATES, AND DID NOT REPRESENT A FORMAL PARTNERSHIP OR

CORPORATION. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, HE WAS GIVEN A LETTER OF "MANDATE", AUTHORIZING HIM "TO SECURE INFORMATION LEADING TO FINANCIAT ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF LOANS," AND "TO CONTACT U.S. AND OTHER BUSINESS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE'S PEARL AND FISHERIES CORPORATION IN RESPECT TO SECURING CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF PRODUCTS TO SAID BUSINESS."

4. EMBASSY ADVISED ATTAWAY OF THE PROBABLE APPLICATION OF MUNITIONS CONTROL LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO SALE OF PATROL BOATS, AND OF THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. ATTAWAY ALSO SAID HE WOULD INQUIRE IN WASHINGTON AS TO NEE TO REGISTER AS FOREIGN AGENT, IN VIEW OF "MANDATE" PROVIDED BY PEARL AND FISHERIES CORPORATION.

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Message Attributes

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